

Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1-10 (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) A substrate holding apparatus comprising:
a substrate holding section for supporting a substrate with ~~its~~ a front surface of the
substrate facing downward; and
an attraction head provided with an attraction seal for attracting and holding the substrate
supported by the substrate holding section while sealing a peripheral portion of ~~the~~ a back
surface of the substrate in a ring;
wherein the substrate holding section ~~is provided with~~ includes a plurality of pressing
mechanisms; disposed at locations along ~~the~~ a circumferential direction of the substrate holding
section, for contacting the pressing mechanisms being configured to contact a peripheral portion
of the front surface of the substrate supported by the substrate holding section and pressing to
press the substrate against the attraction head, each of the pressing mechanisms including a
movable claw arranged so that, as the substrate holding section moves relatively and closer to the
attraction head, the moving claw comes into contact with the peripheral portion of the front
surface of the substrate and presses the substrate against the attraction head; and
wherein the movable claw is supported by a pivot shaft so as to be vertically pivotable
and disposed along the diametrical direction of the substrate holding section, the movable claw
being biased downwardly by an elastic body on the outer side of the pivot shaft, and being
arranged to make contact with a peripheral portion of the front surface of the substrate on an
inner side of the pivot shaft.

Claims 12 and 13 (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) The substrate holding apparatus according to claim ~~13~~ 11,
wherein the elastic body ~~is comprised of~~ comprises a generally truncated conical rubber member.

Claims 15-23 (Cancelled)